

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 DPW-01 T-03 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 201001 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8888

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

JAMEMBASSY JAKARTA 1523

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSOL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4565

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT ICCS ACTIVITIES IN MR 1 FOR PERIOD MARCH 13-19, 1973

THE FOLLOWING TRANSMITS A REPORT OF ICCS ACTIVITY IN MR 1

EXTRACTED FROM MR 1 WEEKLY OVERVIEW FOR PERIOD OF MARCH 13-19,
1973.

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1. DURING THE PAST WEEK ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACEKEEPING AGENCIES IN ICCS REGIONS I AND II PRESENTED A MELANGE OF SUCCESS, PROMISE, FRUSTRATION AND DOUBT. IN REGION I THERE WERE SIGNS OF POSSIBLE MOVEMENT, WHILE IN REGION II PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION AS WELL AS MORE BASIC DISTRUST LED MAINLY TO FRUSTRATION. THE PERIOD ALSO CONTAINED AN ELEMENT OF EXPECTANCY AND APPREHENSION FOR ALL PARTIES IN THE ICCS AS THEY WAITED FOR THE RESULTS OF THE SAIGON VISIT BY CANDIAN MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHARP.

2. FOR THE ICCS REION I, THE PAST WEEK APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE MOST PROMISING SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND IN SPITE OF SOME SINGS OF A HARDENING " EAST- WEST" SPLIT, THE ICCS HELD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ALLEGED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. A FTER TWO DAYS OF MEETING WITH DRV/ PRG LIAISON OFFICERS AND A U. S. JMT REPRESENTATIVE, THE ICCS BEGAN THE PRG- REQUESTED INVESTIGATION OF THE VINH HOA PHUOC II INCIDENT AS WELL AS THE CUA VIET INCIDENT REQUESTED TBY THE GVN. THE ICCS ALSO CARRIED OUT TWO MORE RECONNAISSANCE VISITS TO GIO LINH AND, ON MARCH 17, VISITED LAO BAO.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CANDIAN REGION I DELEGATION APPEARS TO BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY STEP STOWARDS PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR HAVE BEEN SOLELY AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS BY THEM AND BY THE U. S. ELEMENT OF THE FPJMC. IN THEIR VIEW, WHEN THE AMERICANS ARE GONE , THE CANADIANS WILL E THE ONY ONES IN A POSITION TO ELICIT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PRG AND THE RVN AND TO BALANCE THE " EASST" PORTION OF THE ICCS. THEY FEEL THAT THE ICCS MAY NOW BE ON THE THRESHOLD OF EFFECTIVENESS AS AN INVESTIGATIVE BODY AND THAT BY ITS DEPLOYMENT TO QUANG TRI, GIO LINH AND LAO BAO, CAN ACT AS A DETERRENT TO THE FIGHTING. THEY FEAR THAT IF THEY LEAVE, THIS THRESHOLD WILL NEVER BE CROSSED BECAUSE THE REMAINING PARTIES LACK THE EXPERINCE AND THE DETERMINATION TO DO IT WITHOUT THE. THIS IS MOST LIKELY THE VIEW THE CANADIANS EXPRESSED TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP IN SAIGON.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ICCS OBSERVED SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS RELEASED BY THE NORTH NEAR QUANG TRI CITY. 299 GVN POW' S RETURNED ON MARCH 16. ON MARCH 17, 300 GVN AND 1,200 NVA WERE RELEASED IN THE SMOOTHEST PRISONER EXCHANGE TO DATE IN THIS AREA. ON MARCH 18 AND 19, AN ADDITIONAL 620 GVN AND 1,400 NVA PRISONERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE RETURNED. QUANG TRI, THUUTHIEN AND HUE
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OFFICIALS WERE ALSO ON HAND TO GREET THE RETURNING MEN AS WERE A BEVY OF SEVERAL HUNDRED LADY SCHOOL TEACHERS, NURSES, RED CROSS WORKERS AND WIVES AND DAUGHTERS OF OFFICIALS.

5. IN REGION II, ICCS AND JMC DELEGATES, INCLUDING TWO DRV AND TWO PRG REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FPJMC/ SAIGON, VISITED QUANG NGAI MARCH 15 TO INVESTIGATE A PRG COMPLAINT OF RVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED POW RELEASE SITES IN DUC PHO DISTRICT. THE REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS BEING DRAFTED BY THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION, PROTEM CHAIRMAN. HOWEVER, THE CANDIANS, SERIOUSLY FRUSTRATED BY WHAT THEY CALL INDONESIAN " INEPTITUDE", HAVE BEEN DRAFTING AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH THEY BELIEVE THAT INDONESIANS AT LEAST WILL ACCEPT. THIS DRAFT WILL BE

GENERALLY SKEPTICAL OF THE PRG ALLEGATIONS AND WILL OBSERVE THAT THE RELEASE SITE REFERRED TO IN THE PRG LETTER OF COMPLAINT AND TO WHICH THE ICCS TEMA WAS TAKEN ON MARCH 15, WAS NOT THE RELEASE SITE AGREED TO BY THE FPJMC IN SAIGON. THAT SITE, THE DRAFT WILL NOTE, HAS YET TO BE VISITED.

6. FURTHERMORE, IN REGION II, THE ATTEMPTS BY CHU LAI TEAMS TO DEPLOY THERE FROM TAM KY HAVE REMAINED FRUSTRATED BY BUREAUCRATIC SLUGGISHNESS, INCLUDING THE ABSENCE OF THE PA&E CONTRACT MANAGER FROM CHU LAI DURING A PERIOD OF IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS ON MESS HALL AND OTHER FACILITIES. HOWEVER, ONCE THESE TWO TEAMS ARE DEPLOYED, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THE WEEK, REGION II DEPLOYMENTS WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.
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JAKARTA
MANILA
MULTIPLE

OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

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